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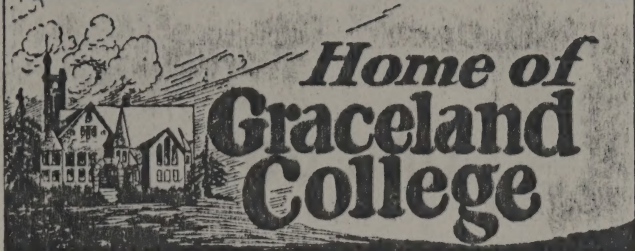
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LAMONI

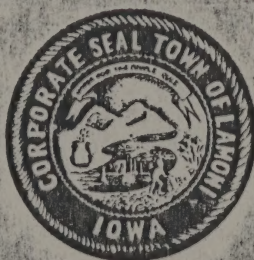


OFFICIAL SOUVENIR

LAMONI, IOWA IA.

SEMI-CENTENNIAL

1879-1929



SEPTEMBER 13 1929

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fifty years ago, 1879-1929. in.p.,
1929,
39, cl: p. illus.(incl.ports.,map)
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Rec'd Mar 30-1978

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12. Lamoni--the story of a town established
fifty years ago, 1879-1929. (a. g.,
1929)
30, 41 p. illus. (incl. notes, map)
28 p.

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COMMITTEES FOR SEMI-CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

The Executive Committee -----	{ Wilbur Prall, permanent chairman Geo. N. Briggs N. Ray Carmichael Lena Graham Rollin White Mrs. A. H. Smith, secretary
The Finance Committee -----	{ N. Ray Carmichael, chairman W. A. Hopkins L. G. Kelley
Booklet Committee -----	{ G. N. Briggs, chairman Lucy Lysinger Emma Chasey Lyda Elefson Roy Cheville
Pageant Committee -----	{ Lena Graham, chairman Olive Mortimore Mrs. G. N. Briggs Marcella Schenck
Program and Publicity Committee	{ Rollin White, chairman Harold White Dr. Maneely

LAMONI

The Story of a Town
Established Fifty Years Ago

1879-1929



Lamoni Has an Unusual Early History

FOUNDED AS A CHURCH COLONY

In 1879 Lamoni was platted as a town. The first settlements had been made only a few years before. Its age, therefore, gives it no special claims, for its neighbors are older. It does exhibit, however, a history that is different from the average run of village chronicles, for the story of these early years runs like some "read-about-in-books" narrative. Fifty years have left a unique story of community pioneering, religious idealism, and forward-looking spirit.

FIRST SETTLERS OF INTEREST

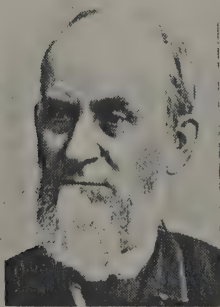
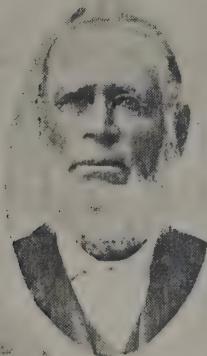
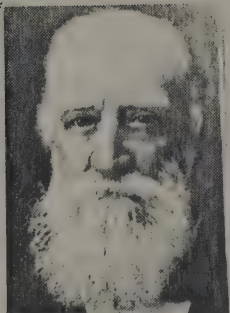
The earliest settlers had come some thirty years before the laying out of the town. The first was a group who came from 1834 to 1840, supposing they were settling in Missouri. In those days there was intense feeling, and marked division over the slavery issue. Missouri was drawing several settlers because it was open to slave holding. A number of this early band had brought slaves to be held in the southern territory. They miscalculated a few miles on the boundary, and found they could not hold slaves in the Iowa Territory. Lamoni's real beginnings, however, do not spring from this group.

Two unusual pioneer groups came into the early history of this section of the country. The one was that of the refugees from Nauvoo who were moving westward and who established a camp at Garden Grove from 1826-1852 as a stopping place on the journey. The other was the Hungarian colony at New Buda about 1851, following the Hungarian Revolution of 1848. It had been planned to establish a large settlement and invite immigration. Neither of these temporary colonies had any permanent influence.

A COUNTY ORGANIZED

The county was organized April 1, 1850. In July of that year the county seat was located at a place called Decatur, the county itself being named after Stephen Decatur, a distinguished officer in the War of 1812. During the fall a log court house was built and soon after the county seat was moved to a town named Independence. It happened that Iowa had another town by that name and so in 1854 by act of the legislature the name was changed to Leon. A pretty well established county organization preceded the founding of Lamoni.

The first settlers who really influenced local history were those who came to the area now known as Pleasanton. Shortly after 1850 the Morey, Keown, Moffet and Hinkle families moved in. These had been members of the old Latter Day Saint Church and when in 1859 they accepted the claims of the Reorganization and effected a local organization, a new slant came into the affairs of this territory.



JOSEPH SMITH
DAVID DANCER
MRS. ROSALIE DANCER
W. W. BLAIR

THE ORDER OF ENOCH BEGUN

Lamoni itself really begins with the activities of the Order of Enoch. This was a corporation of a number of men of means connected with the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. It was organized September 19, 1870, at Council Bluffs, Iowa, with the purpose of purchasing and developing lands for church settlements. The Board of Directors included men who became prominent in the early history of Lamoni: Elijah Banta, president; Israel L. Rogers, treasurer; David Dancer, David Gamet, Alexander McCord, Calvin Beebe, and Phineas Caldwell. H. A. Stebbins was secretary.

A committee was named to choose a place of settlement. They visited several localities in the states of Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska and Iowa. Finding much of the prairie of Fayette and adjoining townships in a state of nature, they purchased a large quantity, 2,686 acres at a cost of \$21,786.41. Their capital stock was \$44,500, sufficient for original purchase and improvement as well. Later more land was purchased and twelve new houses were built at a cost of \$7,678.40.

The country was certainly virgin soil. At that time there was only one farm house in the territory of the present town. The post office called Sedgewick was located southeast of the present town, near where the S. S. Keown farm is located. Mail was received from Osceola once a week at first. It was put off the train at that town and taken by stage line to Leon. Every Saturday morning at seven o'clock it started by horseback from Leon to Sedgewick by way of Decatur City and Terre Haute and arrived at two o'clock in the afternoon if everything was favorable. In times of high water when Grand River was impassable, a week or two more might go by before the mail was received. At the time of

Lamoni's beginning Sedgewick had a store; before this, the nearest store had been at Davis City.

In 1874 the Board of the Order of Enoch passed the following resolution: "Resolved that we proceed to locate a town site upon or near the land belonging to the association as soon as it is found practicable." The project was not in the nature of an investment but for establishing a church community. The land was to be sold out at reasonable terms. Some moved in, but on the whole, conditions remained about the same until 1879, the time of the coming of the railroad.

TOWN NAME CHOSEN

At first the settlement was referred to as "The Colony." Some wanted to call the new town Sedgewick as that had been the name of the post office near by. The Order of Enoch first applied the term "Lamoni" to the town, which was the name of a good king in their sacred literature. Elijah Banta circulated a petition to have the name changed from Sedgewick to Lamoni and the government concurred in name and location. The first Lamoni post office stood where the Supply Store is now located. Samuel Gurley was the postmaster.

THE RAILROAD PLATS THE TOWN

The town was laid out in 1879 by a company under the auspices of the C. B. & Q. Railroad Company. The road was operating to Leon and this company was organized to extend the railroad to Mt. Ayr. At Bethany Junction, now known as Togo, a change of course was effected that was to mean much to the new town. In the original plan the road was to go about three miles north of the present location of Lamoni. The officers of "The Colony" induced the company to choose the present course. The platting of the town came with the railroad. This was the real beginning of growth.



MRS. MARIETTA WALKER
ELIJAH BANTA
HENRY A. STEBBINS
ZENAS GURLEY



THEN AND NOW

TOWN INCORPORATED

The settlement was a village from 1879 to December, 1885, when by vote of the citizens it became an independent town. Some previous efforts had been made to take this step, but a negative vote had resulted. The difficulty appears to have been in the question of policies in local affairs. After the vote for incorporation was taken, temporary officers were elected and town government began. The first regular election was held March 1, 1886, with the following results: M. McHarness, mayor; V. White, recorder; David Dancer, W. Hudson, H. L. Tilton, S. V. Bailey, W. H. Deam, R. L. Branch, councilmen. Seth Bass was the first marshal.

The first business of the Council reflects the interests of the times and the nature of the people. The first ordinance passed in Lamoni was one prohibiting the existence of "beer saloons" and "gambling tables." There had been one saloon before the incorporation of the town and this seems to have been a major issue in the voting for incorporation. The second ordinance prohibited horses, cattle and hogs from running at large.

Education received attention from the first. The first schoolroom was fitted up in a wagon shop owned by Peter Hansen, about where the Sinclair Oil Station now stands. O. B. Thomas was the teacher. In 1882 a school building was erected.

CHURCHES LOCATED

The organization of church congregations preceded the laying out of the town. The first "branch" of Latter Day Saints was organized November 12, 1871, with eighteen members, with Chas. H. Jones, president. As was rather usual in those days the first meetings were held in schoolhouses. About 1875 a rough church was built near the center of the township. It was never painted and after the town grew it was abandoned and torn down. In 1882 the Lamoni congregation took measures to erect an adequate house of worship. The Brick Church was the eventual outcome.

The Methodist Church also has a pioneer history. The first church structure was built a mile and a half from Lamoni in 1872. It was removed to the village in 1881.

The removal of the headquarters of the Reorganized Latter Day Saint Church from Plano, Illinois, to this vicinity gave an impetus to its growth. The removal began with a search for a new business center. Several places were visited and Lamoni finally selected. In the fall of 1881 the printing plant was moved and the first issue of periodicals was published in Lamoni. This brought Joseph Smith and family to the new town, the workers in the printing establishment, and a gradual influx of families. The growth of the town was assured.

EARLY INVITATION EXTENDED

In an editorial of the Saints Herald, November 15, 1881, the town is pictured. "Lamoni is a town of three to four hundred people, away from railroad centers and manufacturing districts. The idler, the lazy, and the vicious will do well to give Lamoni a wide berth; but the industrious, frugal and exemplary we shall welcome to the band of workers."

That invitation of a half century ago holds true to these years of the semi-centennial anniversary of the founding of Lamoni.



EARLY LAMONI

Mayors of Lamoni

J. H. Hansen, mayor protem, 1885.	*B. M. Russel, 1905.
Moses McHarness, 1886.	Robt. Turner, 1906.
A. S. Cochran, 1887.	R. M. Elvin, 1908.
G. W. Blair, 1888.	I. A. Smith, 1910.
R. S. Salyards, 1889.	*F. M. Weld, 1910.
G. E. Reynor, 1890.	G. W. Blair, 1912.
*H. L. Tilton, 1890.	J. F. Jones, 1916.
F. M. Weld, 1891.	*C. F. Graham, 1917.
W. W. Scott, 1893.	*Chas. Haskins, 1917.
Frank Criley, 1896.	A. M. Carmichael, 1918.
W. W. Scott, 1897.	Oscar Anderson, 1920.
G. H. Derry, 1897.	G. W. Blair, 1922.
F. D. Young, 1904.	Chas. Haskins, 1928.

(Those starred were appointed to fill unexpired terms).

TOWN OFFICIALS 1929

Mayor, Chas. Haskins	Councilmen, N. R. Carmichael	A. W. Fleet
Clerk, Martin Hynden	J. H. Gillaspay	David Dancer
	David Vredenberg	

About Our Town

Lamoni has an approximate population of seventeen hundred.

Transportation facilities are much better than those of the average town. The branch line of the Burlington Railroad connects with the main transcontinental line about forty miles away. Through Lamoni run two passenger trains each way except Sundays and at Togo Junction, three miles distant, other trains are available.

The Jefferson Highway from New Orleans to Winnipeg, "from palm to pine," goes through Lamoni. By the close of this year the Iowa section of paving will be completed, joining Kansas City and Des Moines. Lamoni is justly proud of this for her citizens were prime movers in the establishment of the highway and energetic promoters of the paving. Bus service is now being conducted with inter-state service since last spring. The highway paving has been connected with that already laid in Lamoni.

The town has the service of the Iowa Southern Utilities Company, which purchased the local electric plant five years ago. Its business is courteous and efficient. A branch office is maintained in Lamoni. The town maintains a well distributed system of street lighting. Especially is this true of the business district where modern lights were installed a few years ago.

A large expenditure was made in improvements when the Middle States Utilities Company purchased the local telephone plant a few years ago. This has brought a good quality of service.

Lamoni uses both lake and deep well for the town's water supply. There is modern sewage disposal.

In education the town offers unusual advantages from the pre-school clinic through the elementary grades, high school, and junior college. Adults have privileges in cultural clubs, church classes, and community associations. The accrediting of these systems ranks high.

The town is a musical center. The well-balanced concert band, directed by J. H. Anthony, is community-supported. The school orches-

tras lend to the Lamoni-Graceland orchestras, under Mr. Anthony's leadership. The Brick Church enjoys what is probably the largest regular choir in the state for nine months of the year, the Lamoni-Grace-land Oratorio Society, directed by Mabel Carlile of the college faculty. Last spring the annual rendition of the Messiah with a choir of 150 voices and an orchestra of 30 pieces drew music lovers from many neighboring towns. The A Cappella Chorus of the college carries music to other places on its annual spring concert tours. The public school system promotes music.

A public library was started in 1922. Its beginnings were small, but its growth has been steady and tax support now insures its continuance. It is housed near the business center and is used by both town and rural patrons. The library committee is appointed by the town council. The college library is also available to the town's people.

The Coliseum is an entertainment house for community interests, operated in trust by a group of citizens. It is one of the outstanding features of the town, with a well constructed building with basement for large dinners, main assembly room with balcony and with stage for drama. It is kept in good repair and its offerings are well standardized. Moving pictures are shown three times per week.

Parks are laid out for different purposes, and located in various parts of the town.

Civic interest and religious atmosphere are fostered.

DAIRYING A GROWING INDUSTRY

The community has been developing an interest in dairying during recent years. Men have come to feel that this area was particularly well suited to that industry. A number of choice dairy herds have been built up. That at the Saints' Home farm is of the Holstein-Friesian breed and includes some heavy producing cows. The herd at the college farm is Jersey. The photo below shows the modern dairy barn built in 1927 on the Saints' Home farm with a capacity of 24 cows, herd sire and calf pen, and now with room for 100 tons of loose hay. The interior equipment is of steel. It indicates the trend about Lamoni toward better dairy methods and equipments. The agricultural course at the high school under F. S. Parks has been doing some efficient work in this line.



DAIRY BARN AT SAINTS' HOME

Lamoni is a College Town

THE HOME OF A GROWING GRACELAND

Lamoni is the home of Graceland College.

To say that Graceland is not merely located in Lamoni, but that there she has a home, is but expressing the active interest and whole-souled support which the town has from the earliest date accorded this, its largest institution. Today its citizens look upon the college with pride.

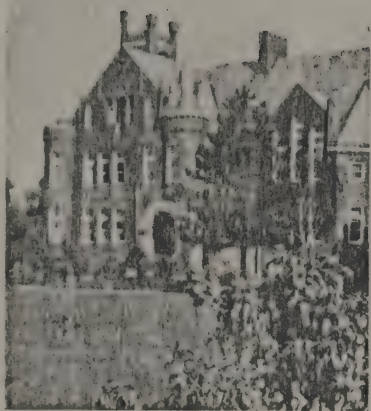
BEGINNINGS OF THE COLLEGE

The first attempt to establish a college in Lamoni originated with the Lamoni Board of Trade. The plan, however, did not materialize. The effort was continued by the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, and Graceland was established in 1890. Its articles of incorporation specified that its advantages and privileges should be open to all alike without distinction of sex, caste, or religion.

Graceland is indebted to Mrs. Marietta Walker for its appropriate and beautiful site. This much loved lady, later known as the mother of Graceland, donated twenty acres as a building spot. Through the generosity of W. A. Hopkins and Mrs. M. A. Wicks this plot was immediately increased to forty-seven acres.

Awaiting the completion of the original building, now known as the Administration Building, class work began in the second story of the France block just south of the present postoffice, in September, 1895. The Administration Building is now given over to the chapel, library and offices.

The first dormitory was erected by the Industrial department with student labor, thus demonstrating at an early date that Graceland students earn while they learn. Honoring Marietta Walker, it is known as Marietta Hall.



The need of another dormitory soon came to the attention of the Patroness Society, an enterprising group of local women organized to act as patronesses to the struggling young institution. For the erection of a building they not only furnished moral but financial assistance, contributing a sum exceeding \$2,000. In appreciation for their efforts the building was named Patroness Hall. It was destroyed by fire January, 1927.

The Patroness Society continues to the present day assisting the administration financially and adding in numerous ways to the comfort and happiness of the student body. A recent movement is that of providing a down-town mother for each of the women students. Thus the life of the town and that of the college is woven together in a pattern of sympathy and mutual benefit.

Herald Hall, located down town, and Banta Hall at Banta Farm furnish living quarters for the men.

THE BUILDING PLAN STARTED

The first unit of Graceland's building plan as designed by her architect Henry C. Smith was built in 1920-21. It is known as Briggs Recitation Hall, in honor of President G. N. Briggs. This building represents a new epoch in the career of the college. It stands for increase in lines of service, increased faculty and increased facilities.

Under the slogan, "Friends of Graceland will build," was erected Zimmerman Gymnasium and Convention Hall, 1923-25. Made possible through the contributions of alumni and friends, this hall is a concrete expression of confidence in Graceland. The Lamoni business men with their usual business acumen and friendship for Graceland subscribed their quota of \$5,000 within five minutes. Later they raised it to \$7,500.

Dormitory facilities for girls were very inadequate after the burning of Patroness Hall, so in October, 1928, a new dormitory for girls was begun. This school year will find the girls making their homes in it. It is to be one of the most commodious and beautiful buildings on the campus. With the erection of this building we can see "Greater Graceland" unfolding as never before.

Other buildings on the campus are the heating plant; Arborvilla, home of N. Ray Carmichael, treasurer and business manager; Sunny-



ADMINISTRATION BUILDING AND BRIGGS HALL

meade, home of E. E. Weddle, superintendent of buildings and grounds; and the Country Club, which has served both as a men's and women's dormitory and is now occupied by faculty women.

STANDARDIZATION

The story of Graceland's struggle to raise her standard of instruction and to gain recognition is as interesting as that of her building program. The Academy and Junior College were accredited in 1920. In 1923 Graceland was ranked as one of the three highest junior colleges in the country in scholarship, attitude of students, and general worthwhile attributes.

The year 1923-24 saw the college start upon a four-year program to take her place among senior colleges. It is now fully standardized and officially credited by the Inter-collegiate Standing Committee of Iowa, for three years of college work, by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, and by the American Association of Junior Colleges as a Junior College.

The qualifications of the faculty have been raised accordingly, both as to numbers and training.

In 1925, because of the fact that in order to maintain a Junior College an endowment of \$200,000 is required, a drive was put on to raise that amount. The response was more than gratifying, a sum of \$270,000 being subscribed. This financial backing insures stability and growth. Here again the citizens of Lamoni contributed freely.

The courses now offered are broad and thorough, including liberal arts, teacher training, agriculture, music, public speaking, physical education and business administration.

The student body is a cosmopolitan group, entrants coming from nearly every state in the union and from as many as seven foreign countries. The registration last year totaled 300.

The president is George N. Briggs, the business manager and treasurer, N. R. Carmichael, and the trustees, A. Carmichael, chairman, and F. M. McDowell, Independence Mo.; J. F. Garver, W. E. Prall, W. E. Hayer and G. L. DeLapp, Lamoni, Iowa, and Mrs. George Mesley, Kansas City, Mo.

Graceland is a sturdy little college where men and women are taught not only how to make a living, but also how to live.



GYMNASIUM



EAST SIDE SCHOOL
WEST SIDE SCHOOL
PRESENT HIGH SCHOOL

The Public School System is Highly Accredited

Education is well established in civic interests. Lamoni has always considered education a matter of great importance.

During the years of 1879, 1880 and 1881 the children of Lamoni attended the district school of Fayette Township No. 1, the school house being a small structure located east of town across the road from the Banta farm.

Some of the early students were Allie Graham Poush, E. H. Smith, Clare Smith, Thede Smith, Letha Barr Tilton, Alex Hopkins, Frances Walker Davis, Lois Walker Ackerly, Sherman Wightman.

SCHOOL BUILDINGS

In 1882 a carpenter shop was rented in the business part of town and used as a school room. The main part of the old East Side was built in 1883. It contained three rooms which became so congested that outside rooms were again pressed into use until 1891 when the north wing of the old East Side schoolhouse was erected, thus providing two additional rooms.

The town grew so rapidly that in 1894 a four-roomed brick building was built in West Lamoni and now is commonly called West Side. In 1896 the school board purchased the old lumber yard and shed which was converted into a school house and called Central School.

By 1915 we found our buildings again inadequate to our needs and a new brick modern building was erected on the lot south of the Herald Building. In time the old East Side and Central buildings were disposed of and the lots are now used for parks and playgrounds.

EARLY GRADUATES

The first graduating class held its exercises in the year of 1888. There were seven members, Frank Stoddard, Audentia Smith, Cara Bailey, Martha Robinson, Frances Walker, Minnie Mader and Mary Evans. The second class finished in 1891. It consisted of Charles F. Graham, Roscoe L. Mason, Fred M. Smith, Clara Cochran, Lois Walker, Nora Gillen, Genia Crosby, Nellie Stoddard.

The third class was the class of 1895, composed of 13 members, some of whom are now living in Lamoni. Since 1901 there has been a class yearly completing an accredited four-year course and hundreds of graduates are numbered in this list.

SUPERINTENDENTS OF SCHOOLS

A. A. Roy, 1883-1886.
Prof. Andrews, 1886-1887.
D. F. Lambert, 1887-1889.
J. A. Gunsolley, 1889-1894.
D. F. Lambert, 1894-1897.
G. N. Briggs, 1897-1901.
A. N. Griffith, 1901-1902.
H. Buffam, 1902-1904.
Ed. L. Kelley, 1904-1907.

Mr. Hannum, 1907-1909.
Mr. Fisher, 1911-1913.
O. H. Hollen, 1909-1911.
P. E. Neveln, 1913-1915.
C. E. Irwin, 1915-1917.
A. M. Carmichael, 1917-1923.
F. E. Ford, 1923-1925.
W. W. Hield, 1925-1927.
Opal Roark, 1927-

ACCREDITING AND HIGH RANK

Lamoni's public schools have been accredited fully since 1902. The system is now recognized as being one of the best in Southern Iowa.



MODERN HOMES

This is probably due in part to the fact that our school board does not change very often. Some of our members have served faithfully from 16 to 27 years. This gives the board a chance to plan a stable program, in equipment, faculty, finance, and course of study. A. Otis White has been president of the board for eight years.

In addition to this the Board has learned the wisdom of continuing efficient, well trained teachers in the system. Some of our teachers have served in our schools as long as 24, 16, 12 and 10 years. This makes it possible for children to receive the best instruction possible. Teachers who have rendered long years of service in our public schools and who are still serving our schools in that capacity are Martha Lester, Emma Chasey, Marcella Schenck, Nellie Anderson, Pearl Stafford, Rosa Shoemaker.

ORGANIZATION OF THE SCHOOL

The school system is organized on the 8-4 plan. The kindergarten and four lower primary grades are housed in the main building, the four upper primary grades, in the west side school, and the high school also in the main building. The rooms are equipped for the level of grades housed in them. Departmental work is done in the sixth, seventh, and eighth grades.

A kindergarten teacher, nine grade teachers, two music teachers, and ten high school teachers constitute the teaching force.

KINDERGARTEN

Lamoni had the first kindergarten in the county. It began in 1913 and has continued successfully since that time. Here the tiny tots learn lessons in muscular coordination, rhythm, color choices, self-control, fitting them for the work in the grades later on. The kindergarten room is large, light and airy. It is located on the first floor of the High School Building.

THE HIGH SCHOOL

There are four years' fully accredited work given here. The Normal training course is recognized as being one of the best in the State. Teaching certificates are granted to successful students enrolled in this course.

The Home Economics department is fully equipped and qualifies under the Smith-Hughes Act.

The Vocational Agricultural department is in force the year round so farm boys are fortunate to enroll where experiments may be carried on during the summer months under a qualified supervisor.

MUSIC IN THE SCHOOLS

The Lamoni schools emphasize the place of music in education, until the community is known for the interest in good music.

Vocal music is taught throughout the grades and in the high school. Several choral groups are organized in the high school every year. The grade children present an operetta.

A special instructor teaches instrumental music to grade and high school students. Classes are held in the evening for pupils. Two bands and two orchestras are organized aside from the regular class work.

ATHLETICS

All students are enrolled for physical training in some form. Inter-school athletics are carried on in football, basketball and track. Many trophies of athletic contests are kept in a case in the assembly room.

The Community Responded to the Nation's Call

During the years of the war the community took its place with those who served energetically and efficiently. It gave workers and supplies. In the days of peace the real test of patriotism is shown in movements for civic uplift.

THE AMERICAN LEGION

The Ralph A. Judson Post of American Legion was organized in Lamoni in 1919, and now has an active membership of thirty-four. The dual purpose of the Legion is to help ex-service men and to assist the community in all ways. The Post has served by taking charge of funerals, memorial services and exercises on Decoration Day. Through their efforts money was raised and flags purchased for display on proper occasions. A movement is now on foot to raise sufficient funds to provide a signal for airplanes, thus placing Lamoni on the air map.

Women's Auxiliary to the American Legion has been taking an active interest in our community working for the betterment of the ex-service members and of the community at large. Each year a poppy sale is conducted for the benefit of disabled veterans who are unable to do hard labor. An orphan child is provided for by this organization.

THE TOWN SERVICE FLAG

Adair, Walter	Elefson, Edward
Adair, Orren	Eubanks, James
Anderson, Elmer E.	Erwine, Wright
Anderson, Leslie	
Anderson, Scott	Gibson, Clarence
Allen, Wilber	Gray, Zeb
Allen, Wm. G.,	Grenawalt, Vane
	Gray, Orra
Bandy, Carl	Gruver, Thomas
Bradfield, Philip	Gunsolley, Harold
Blair, Wayne	Gunsolley, Verne
Barrett, Vernon	Gaulter, Arthur
Brooner, Bert	Goode, Alma
Barrows, Allen	Goode, Fred
Ballentyne, Alvin	Garland, Joseph
Bohn, Towner	
Barrett, Riley	Hayer, Alvin
	Hopkins, Horner
Case, Lyman	Hawley, John
Church, Arthur	Hartschen, Earl
Cantril, James	Hartschen, Orren
Cobb, Luther	Hall, Roy
Cochran, Clyde	
Carmichael, Ray	Judson, Howard
Chasey, Ray	Judson, Carl
Christian, Ephraim Edwin	Judson, Ralph
	Jackson, Howard
Dancer, David	Jackson, Wallace
Dancer, Howard	Jackson, John
Davis, Dwight	Johnson, John
Dillen, James	Johnson, Ralph

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Jones, Edward | Rhodes, Layton |
| Jones, Lewis | Rauch, Earl |
| Keller, Perry | Scott, Raymond |
| LaFrance, Orlo | Scott, Rothmer |
| Lasley, Everett | Scott, Dale |
| Lovell, Hiram | Stubbart, Fred |
| Lebrash, Roy | Schenck, Walter |
| | Silver, Ralph |
| | Silver, Howard |
| Moon, Walter | Sweeley, Byron |
| Murray, William | Shakespeare, Joseph |
| McElroy, Vaughn | Stark, Ross |
| Mortimore, Morris | Spurrier, Howard |
| Martin, Emery | Snyder, Glen |
| Myers, True | Smith, Gerald |
| Marshall, Albert | |
| McWhinney, Ward | Traxler, Earl |
| Nunn, Arthur | Truman, Alfred |
| Nunn, Earl | Tallman, Floyd |
| Noftsgger, Arthur | Teale, Ralph |
| | Teale, Paul |
| Parks, Arthur | Wight, Rupert |
| Pitkin, Loren | Wight, Leslie |
| Poush, Lloyd | Wood, Zenas |
| | Williams, Asa |
| Rew, Ralph | Wood, Alvin |
| Rew, Elza | |
| Randall, Buell | Young, Bert |
| Roth, Jesse | |

The Social Life Includes

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

The atmosphere of the town is friendly. Several groups are organized for social welfare and general culture. Many of these are affiliated with the churches, the public school and the college.

The Tuesday Club was organized in 1910, and federated in 1925 with fifteen active members. The aim of the general federation is the promotion of all that leads to the betterment of life; the motto is "The World is advancing, advance with it." The first president was Mrs. C. F. Smith. Present officers are Mrs. M. B. Nicholson, president; Mrs. T. J. Hill, vice-president; Mrs. J. M. Lysinger, secretary, and Mrs. J. F. Jones, treasurer.

The As You Like It Club, composed of young women, became affiliated with the Federation last year. Mrs. Horner Hopkins is president.

The Patroness Society has been organized for twenty-five years for the purpose of assisting Graceland College. During this time they have raised upwards of five thousand dollars for the benefit of the college, and have just completed the raising of over one thousand dollars to be used toward equipping the new dormitory. Mrs. W. E. Prall is president for this year. Mrs. J. A. Lane, first vice-president; Mrs. Ed. Downey, second vice-president; Mrs. J. H. Anthony, corresponding secretary; Mrs. L. G. Holloway, recording secretary; Mrs. R. Robinson, treasurer.

The Golf Club includes twenty or more members. W. P. Hollands is president and Martin Hynden, treasurer.



LOCAL ACTIVITIES

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 1. ORCHESTRA | 4. BOY SCOUTS |
| 2. JUNIOR CRAFTS | 5. GIRLS' CLUB |
| 3. BAND | 6. PUBLIC LIBRARY |

The Community Club is the most representative of civic societies. It is organized to promote the general welfare of the community. Monthly meetings are held in the basement of the Coliseum. W. P. Hollands is president for this year.

The Boosters were organized June 12, 1912, by thirty ladies as a club to boost the civic improvements of Lamoni. The first officers were president, Mrs. T. J. Hill; first vice-president, Mrs. C. F. Smith; secretary, Mrs. C. A. Rauch; treasurer, Mrs. G. W. Blair. A drive for membership resulted in 90 for that year. The year's earnings and expenses amounted to \$82.46.

The club now has become one of the largest organizations in the town, its membership numbering 180 at present. This club earns money through collecting dues, serving dinners, shipping paper, etc., and uses it for projects beneficial to the town. The present officers are president, Mrs. M. B. Nicholson; first vice-president, Mrs. Everett Bell; second vice-president, Mrs. Tom France; secretary, Mrs. H. A. Denio; treasurer, Mrs. A. Otis White.

FRATERNAL ORDERS

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows organized December 28, 1891, with seven charter members. One is living in Lamoni, now, John J. Gray. The officers elected were: D. F. Nicholson, N. G.; C. E. Blair, V. G.; W. W. Scott, secretary; J. J. Black, treasurer. Sixteen new members were initiated, of whom one living here now is Frank Hammer. The present membership is around 60 members and the present officers are Ray Johnson, N. G.; Nephi Gruver, V. G.; Cliff Merritt, secretary; Rollin Allen, treasurer.

Fayette Lodge No. 571, A. F. & A. M. was chartered in 1900. The present membership is fifty-six. Officers for 1929 are these: Grant Wise, W. N.; F. L. Shipman, S. W.; I. C. Bowen, J. W.; R. H. Johnson, S. D.; H. R. Allen, J. D.; W. D. Gaulter, secretary; F. W. Rauch, treasurer; Harry Scott, S. S., and A. H. Smith, J. S.

ATHLETICS

The high school and college afford attractions for those interested in athletics. Football, basketball, track and tennis are scheduled in the year's program. From the opening of school in the fall until Thanksgiving time there is a game on the gridiron at North Park almost every week. The high school and college coaches cooperate in planning the schedule. From a small squad playing neighboring high schools, Graceland has grown in athletics until now such colleges as Iowa Wesleyan, Chillicothe Business College, and Central meet here in Lamoni. The annual homecoming game begun in 1924 draws many alumni and friends back for a reunion. It is a major event in Lamoni's calendar of social events. This year the game falls on October 12.

Zimmerman Hall, the college gymnasium, offers many opportunities. High school as well as college games are played here, thus affording for the public school an unusually good floor without the extra expense of public maintenance. The best of junior college teams in this section of the country meet on the floor of Zimmerman Hall. Many of the townspeople are enthusiastic followers of this sport.

Golf has created an increasing interest in the town. North Park is maintained as a green for a nine hole course. A golf club promotes this sport. This game has come to be a major form of social and recreational life during the summer months. Tournaments are arranged with neighboring towns.



METHODIST CHURCH

JACOB ALLEN
PARSONAGE

MR. AND MRS. J. R. SMITH
DR. J. B. HORNER

Methodism Was a Pioneer Church

When settlers first began to assemble to this community, even before the village of Lamoni was started, a Methodist Church was built in 1872, one mile east and one half mile north of Lamoni on the William Buck farm.

It was built at the cost of fifteen hundred dollars. The money was given by such men as John Andrews, Noah Riggs, J. R. Smith, William Buck, Frank Scott, Jacob Allen, Clemuel Creveling, Sr., Solomon Ferguson, Alex McNeil, William Barksdale, James Scott, Ephraim Ferguson, Maley McDonald, Alexander Gordon, and many others whose names are not obtainable at this time. It is said that Jacob Allen, one of the first contributors said he didn't have the money to give but would give a two-year-old colt. Alexander Gordon purchased the colt at a cost of fifty dollars.

REMOVAL TO LAMONI

The town of Lamoni was started in 1879, and it was decided best to move the Methodist Church into the village. It was through the efforts of Mrs. Edith Wharton Teale and others that this plan was carried out in 1881. At this time Rev. Dix was pastor. He supplied both Davis City and Lamoni.

In 1882 and 1883 the church building was remodeled at a cost of two hundred and fifty dollars. Also that year a new organ was purchased. The records of the Methodist Church are few, but one being obtainable, that of 1892. This shows the official members: Trustees, Sara Officer, Mary Randall, J. R. Smith; stewards, Perry Orfield, J. R. Smith; board estimating preacher's salary: Lamoni, J. R. Smith; Davis City, W. H. Jennings; Decatur, T. J. Postin.

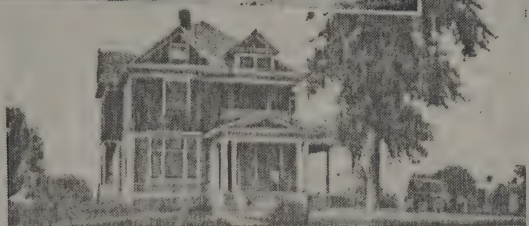
All three branches were on the same circuit. One minister supplied all three places until the year 1908, when the conference set Lamoni apart from Davis City circuit and added Mt. Zion church, nine miles west and south of Lamoni. Preaching was conducted every other Sunday afternoon by the Lamoni pastor. The pastor at that time was Rev. R. M. Shipman. He was here until the Fall of 1912.

The church made much progress during that time. In the year 1911-12, plans were made and funds were raised for the building of the parsonage. Work was started the first of September and the building was finished in 1913. Rev. A. G. Peterson was pastor at that time. Pastors for the following years are: E. F. Partridge (1915), N. P. Barton (1916), W. E. Shugg (1917-1918), C. D. Cottingham (1919), J. Vincent Gray (1920-1924), J. S. Clark (1925), Anna E. King (1926), Harry L. Slick (1929). The last pastor, Harry L. Slick, was here until June, 1929, when he resigned his work here to take up advanced study at Northwestern University.

THE CHURCH TODAY

The church membership is not large but is gradually growing. The trustees of the church for the year 1929 are Nat Heizer, William Wood, F. S. Parks, H. S. Murray, I. L. Bath, and A. H. Smith.

The Sunday school has always been very good, but the last few years a great improvement has been made both in the work and the attendance. It is an internationally graded Sunday school, one of the few in the county. The enrollment is 140 with an average attendance of about 80. The officers for 1929 are: Superintendent, Miss Eva Lewers;



FARM HOMES

children's division superintendent, Miss Lucy Buchanan; advisory super-member of the local church here.

Mr. Clarence Riggs, a missionary in India, is being supported by the Methodist Sunday School of Lamoni. The offering the first Sunday of every month is sent for his support. He is the son of Noah Riggs, who helped to found the Methodist Church of Lamoni. He also is a member of the local church here.

The Aid Society, which meets every Thursday afternoon in their room at the parsonage, is a very industrious organization. The president for 1929 is Mrs. A. H. Smith; secretary-treasurer, Mrs. S. B. Cooper. Through the efforts of this society, many worthy causes are promoted each year.

Community Unites in Civic Services

The citizens of Lamoni combine in the programs, that have bearing upon the life of the community. Each fall the college, which is of interest to all the town, conducts a College Day Program. The churches usually join in a union service of pageantry, music or addresses and the citizens raise funds for the scholarship loan fund. In the fall of 1925 the townspeople raised \$18,811 for the endowment fund of the college.

The American Legion sponsors a community Christmas tree at the main intersection of the town. A week before the holidays a large pine is well illuminated with colored lights and on some evening a program of carols and Christmas greetings draws a large audience.

Graduation in the spring is a time of activity. The high school baccalaureate service at the Brick church draws one of the largest crowds of the year. This meeting and the commencement exercises in the Coliseum become expressions of the interest of Lamoni folk in the public school system. More and more speakers for these occasions come from the rank of those who have lived here or received training in Lamoni. The college commencement exercises also partake of the nature of community programs.

Memorial Day is observed in Lamoni. On Memorial Sunday a religious service is held in the Brick church or the Coliseum with the legion marching as guests of honor. On Thursday a memorial program is held; honors are paid to the unknown soldier, and the graves of soldiers are decorated.

The Oratorio Society joins the musicians of the town and college in the interests of the best religious music. Every week of the college year 150 voices meet in rehearsal. In mid-year a secular program is offered to the public and in the spring a standard oratorio is presented. Last year the Messiah was produced with orchestral accompaniment.

For several years a community lyceum course has been offered, bringing the best of standard music, drama, and lectures to the town. Famous choral groups and opera singers have been brought to Lamoni in this way. The college and public school have led in this contribution.

This merging of programs of the several organizations of the town for propositions that concern all is one of the hopeful features of the town. When the old Herald Office burned in 1907 a citizens' meeting subscribed \$17,000 the following Sunday, toward a new structure. When the college needed endowment to meet accrediting requirements the civic spirit responded with several thousands of dollars. On health work, in library drives, in musical societies, on national holidays, and in educational programs, the civic minded, people have learned the art of cooperation.



LATTER DAY SAINT CHURCH BUILDINGS

- | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. CHILDREN'S HOME | 2. LIBERTY HOME | 3. SAINTS' HOME |
| 4. HERALD OFFICE | 5. BRICK CHURCH | |

Lamoni is a Center for the Reorganized Latter Day Saint Church

ONCE THE HEADQUARTERS NOW THE EDUCATIONAL CENTER

Lamoni began as a colony for members of this church. Before the establishment by the Order of Enoch, the ministry was active in this territory and several members were located in this region, designated by the church as the Decatur District. The nearest congregation was the Little River Branch, now known as Pleasanton. The elders of this district had been preaching in Fayette township so that by 1871 there were sufficient members for a local congregation.

THE BRANCH IS ORGANIZED

On November 12, 1871, the district president, A. W. Moffett, organized the Lamoni Branch, composed of eighteen members. C. H. Jones was chosen president. During 1872 the membership of the branch was increased considerably. Among the families who came were Samuel Ackerly from Wisconsin, Andrew K. Anderson from Illinois, Daniel and David Young and William Hopkins from California. By this time the membership increased to nearly seventy.

A PIONEER CHURCH BUILDING ERECTED

By this time they were in need of a place of meeting. Two school-houses had served their needs, one in the Evergreen neighborhood, the other four and one-half miles east. In the spring of 1876 the new president, Daniel Young, called a meeting and appointed the next Sunday's services in the new church. Lumber was hauled from León and some native lumber from the timber. By meeting time the building, which was located on land furnished by E. J. Robinson, was up, shingled, enclosed, windows in and a door hung. There was neither floor nor seats except temporary seats brought in for that service. Later it was finished and made comfortable though it was never painted and was abandoned and sold after the church was built in town. This building constructed in a week's time, came to be known as the "Sheepshed." The first L. D. S. Church in town was built in 1880 and was located at the corner of North Silver and Main. Later it was moved and now stands just north of the David Dancer, Sr., homestead. The first sermon preached here was by John H. Lake in the home of Peter Harris in June, 1880.

THE HERALD OFFICE MOVES TO LAMONI

In the fall of 1881 the Herald plant was removed from Plano, Illinois, and with it came many more families closely associated with early Lamoni civic and religious history. Among these should be mentioned the names of Joseph and Alexander Smith, the latter of whom lived for several years on a farm near Andover, Missouri. The coming of the Herald plant together with the removal of church headquarters to Lamoni brought a great influx of Saints and the holding of general conferences here added fresh impetus for many years to the growth of the town. Some of the outstanding figures were Herny Stebbins, W. W. Blair, Asa Cochran, Daniel Lambert, J. R. Lambert, R. S. Salyards, and Will Crick.

THE BRICK CHURCH ERECTED

The present church—the familiar "Brick Church" was built by the work of almost the entire congregation living here at that time. It was

started in the fall of 1882 and occupied in 1884. The first sermon was preached by W. W. Blair, December 14, 1884. For many years its only claim to beauty was in the simplicity of its structure, the gradual age-softening color of the brick, which, by the way, were made in a brick kiln south of town, and a growing grove of trees on the slope just north of the building. Only a casual survey of the building and grounds now is necessary to note a vast improvement in both. Beautiful vines and shrubbery soften and adorn the walls and foundations while the velvety lawn and artistic park evolved from the former "grove of trees" attests the fruition of some beautiful dreams indulged in by the present Custodian Deacon, Charles F. Church. An excellent feature of this park is an ideal setting for open-air meetings during the warm weather, the cement rostrum erected near the center of the gently sloping lawn framed at the rear by a wealth of well-kept shrubbery.

THE HOME OF THE CHURCH HEADQUARTERS

For many years Lamoni was the center of the church. Here were located the general offices, the official publications, principal institutions, and the largest congregation. The officers were located in the new Herald Office Building, a well-constructed edifice, erected in 1907 to replace the first one destroyed by fire in the spring of that year. Several of the general church offices were located here.

Gradually the offices were transferred to Independence, Missouri. The last conference held in Lamoni was in the spring of 1919. In 1920 the Herald plant was transferred to Independence, taking many fine families from Lamoni.

Two homes for old folks were maintained by the church, but a few years ago the one, Liberty Home was consolidated with the other home.

A Children's Home also flourished here for several years under the auspices of the church but was abandoned after legislation made the transportation of orphans from one state to another unlawful. As these children had previously been brought in from all over the United States it can readily be seen that the general church could ill afford to keep a home of this size operating for just Iowa children of the church.

Graceland College makes Lamoni still the educational center of the denomination. Throughout the church Lamoni has come to be recognized as a place of preparation for service of an excellent grade in many places and in various departments of the church.

THE LAMONI STAKE

The more fully organized districts of the church, adjacent to the central place are known as "stakes." In 1901 eight counties of Iowa and three of Missouri were combined in such an organization. The Brick Church congregation is the central unit. Elder John Smith served as first president of the Lamoni Stake. Since then, there have occupied, J. F. Garver, C. E. Wight and the present president, W. E. Prall.

One of the stake activities of interest to Lamoni is the annual reunion held by the L. D. S. on the reunion grounds owned by the church and situated one mile south of town. The reunion in 1929 was the 26th gathering of this nature. The progress attending other movements has not been lacking here and the grounds have changed from a small plot of uncleared timber and grazing ground, without any concession to comfort or sanitation, to a large tract of land which is so cared for that when the opening date arrives it is a joy to behold. Closely-clipped grass, well-trimmed trees in unstudied but pleasing situations, a large commissary building where meals and refreshments are served—water

hydrants with plenty of excellent well water are placed in several convenient locations. A large parking space for cars is provided and besides the large meeting tent there are other tents which provide meeting places for the various ages of children—a nursery, a visitors' tent, etc.

THE PRESENT CONGREGATION

The membership of the Brick Church is one thousand and eighteen. The stake president, W. E. Prall, serves as pastor with Roy A. Cheville as associate. Some of its outstanding features are its musical activities with the large choir directed by Miss Mabel Carlile and the orchestra by J. H. Anthony. Its system of religious education is conducted through a graded church school.

This church school has combined all the educational agencies of the church under a coordinated program. It is organized into pre-school, beginner, primary, junior, high school, college, and adult departments. Each department directs the instruction and provides social activities for each age group. The program includes week day as well as Sunday provisions.

The Brick church no longer enrolls the general leaders of the church since the headquarters have been moved, nor does it house the general conference. It does, however, receive every fall the students of Graceland who come from all parts of the country and affords a church home for the college year. It is still the second largest congregation of the church and with the educational offering of the college draws many to Lamoni.

Cooperative Movements

In November, 1928, the first butter was made in the Lamoni Cooperative Creamery. For several months prior to this surveys had been conducted and educational campaigns carried on relative to dairying. The business has increased during the year until now approximately 10,000 pounds of butter are churned weekly and there are about 325 patrons. Truck routes have been established this summer. A considerable quantity of cream is shipped from other towns. The directors are G. L. DeLapp, president; Jacob Cole, vice-president; N. R. Carmichael, secretary; Wm. Stoll, treasurer; R. A. Ballantyne and Grover Sharp.

The Livestock Shipping Association is an organization of farmers and begun in 1923 with Grant Jones as manager. Last year 90 carloads of stock were shipped from Lamoni through the association.

The Farmers Elevator was one of the first cooperative undertakings. It was organized in 1912 and increased in business so that in 1923 the store was begun in connection with it. R. E. Ballantyne is president of the organization and A. E. Maron is manager.

Since Lamoni was begun as a cooperative undertaking, it is worthwhile noting that the town has always included some such enterprise in its business firms.

In the Business District



MIDWEST LUMBER COMPANY
BARR-MOON MODERN MILL
LAMONI MILL
SMITH'S CHEVROLET
SOUTH LINDEN STREET

Lamoni is a good business town, drawing from a large radius of territory. General stores with large displays of merchandise in up-to-date methods, well equipped garages, lumber yards, shipping association, elevators, cooperative creamery, and produce houses keep up a wide variety of trade.

Many business houses are old in the history of the town. The following is a list of these houses in order of their seniority of establishment under present management. In many instances members of the firm have been in other lines of business, prior to connection with present houses. Often there have been changes in personnel, but a continuation has gone on.

G. W. Johnson, jeweler, 1882.

Fleet's Store, general department store, 1889.

W. A. Grenawalt, men's clothier, 1894.

E. D. Briggs, insurance and real estate, 1896.

D. C. White & Son, general merchandise, 1899.

Rauch Grain and Seed Co., 1899.

Geo. Foreman, coal and feed, 1899.

Silvers' Restaurant, 1899.

G. H. Derry, garage, 1902.

(Mr. Derry was in the harness business before this).

H. W. Teale & Son, implements, 1902.

(In harness business previously).

Humphrey Produce Co., 1902.

Allen's Restaurant, 1903.

Grenawalt's Hardware, 1903.

Brand Millinery Shop, 1904.

Mrs. J. D. Stead, millinery and notions, 1905.

Geo. Blair, real estate, 1905.

(In mercantile business).

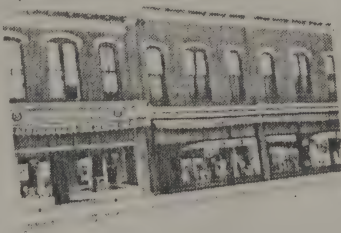
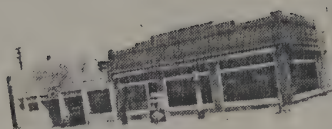
E. A. Denio, groceries, 1909.

Orv. Dickey, barber, 1909.

Farmers' Elevator, 1912.

(Store was begun, 1923).

Ed. Downey, barber, 1912.
 Blair Printing Co., 1913.
 J. F. Jones, druggist, 1915.
 Lewis Second Hand Store,
 (Began Variety Store, 1916).
 H. Miner, barber, 1916.
 T. Hinderks, hardware 1916.
 Daniel Anderson, insurance,
 1916.
 W. D. Gaulter, plumbing, 1919.
 C. W. Humphrey, real estate.
 Donelson Motor Co., 1919.
 Midgorden Bros., implements, 1920.
 Silver & Roberts, tire shop, 1920.
 Jonathan Hotel, Mrs. Chasey,
 1920.
 Sinclair Oil Station, 1920.
 John Nixon, shoe repair and pan-
 itorium, 1921.
 General Supply Store, general
 merchandise, 1921.
 Arthur Nofstger, insurance,
 1921.
 Barr's Modern Mill (now Barr
 & Moon), 1922.
 Midwest Lumber Company, 1922.
 Farmers Shipping Assn., 1923.
 Hartman Produce House, 1923.
 Midgorden's Radio Shop, 1924.
 Gibson's Cafe, 1924.
 Miner & Frees Lumber Co., 1924.
 Iowa Southern Utilities Co., elec-
 tric company, 1925.
 O. W. Propst, shoe repairer, 1925.
 Middle States Utilities Co., tele-
 phone, 1926.
 Clarence Downey, poultry and
 produce, 1926.
 J. W. Arkle, jeweler, 1926.
 Ballantyne's Eat Shop, 1927.
 Dave Hansen, photographer,
 1927.
 Lamoni Hatchery, 1927.
 Mid-Continent Petroleum Co.,
 1927.
 Harry Scott, druggist, 1927.
 Smith Meat Market, 1928.
 Pete Cooper, harness, 1928.
 J. E. Butts, blacksmith, 1928.
 Lamoni Creamery, 1928.
 Smith's Chevrolet Garage, 1928.
 Miller's Cafe, 1929.
 Lamoni Mill & Coal Co., 1929.
 Derry's Bake Shop, 1929.
 France's Oil Station, 1929.
 Snyder's Blacksmith Shop.
 Hammer Oil Station, 1929.



DONELSON MOTOR COMPANY
 MINER & FREES LUMBER COMPANY
 FLEET DEPARTMENT STORE
 GENERAL SUPPLY STORE
 COLISEUM

In the Professions

Lamoni's professional groups include those who have served the community from thirty-five years to those who have recently moved into the town.

Doctors:

Bertha A. Greer, 1897.
H. M. Hills, 1911.
T W. King, 1918.
C. E. Sixbury, 1926.
C. R. Taff, 1926.

Dentists:

D. K. Maneely, 1923.
Frank Shipman, 1923.

Veterinary:

J. J. Moore, 1895.

Law:

Rolla Shewmaker, 1929.

Education:

Opal Roark, superintendent of schools, 1927.
G. N. Briggs, president of college, 1915.

Ministry:

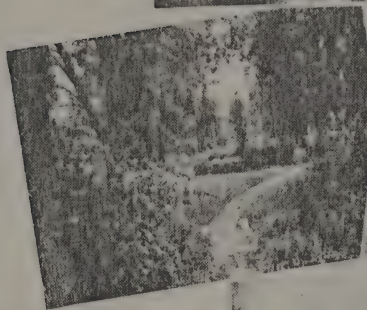
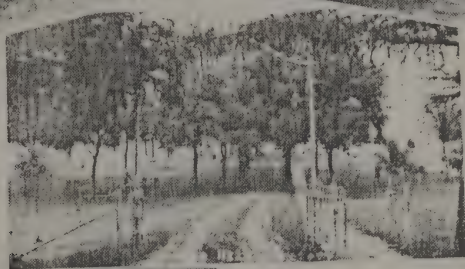
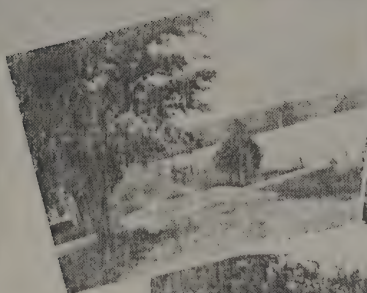
W. E. Prall, pastor of L. D. S. Church, 1925.
H. L. Slick, pastor of M. E. Church.

Freight Shipments

From Lamoni during the fiscal year July 1, 1928, to June 30, 1929, were shipped the following carloads, according to the statistics of J. F. Jefferies, agent for the Burlington Line: Corn, 25 cars; wheat 5; hogs, 265; cattle, 97. and miscellaneous, 47. The miscellaneous materials included logs, scrap iron, machinery, sheep, horses, etc. This establishes Lamoni as an agricultural shipping center.



HEATING PLANT AND ICE FACTORY
IOWA SOUTHERN UTILITIES COMPANY
G. W. JOHNSON, JEWELER



BEAUTY SPOTS

A Variety of Good Parks is Maintained

The parks of Lamoni are a source of civic pride, unusual for a town of its size. They are under the management of a board chosen by election.

Central Park is the prettiest and most used of the town parks. The trees were planted before the town owned it by Mrs. Rosalie Dancer. A caretaker is employed to care for the lawn and flower beds. Playground equipment, tables and benches, and a band stand make it constantly used by the townspeople.

The East Side Park is equipped and maintained for tourists. It is sponsored by the Community Club.

North Park includes about twenty acres. It is laid out for golf links. A well turfed gridiron is used by the college and high school.

The lawn of the Brick Church is one of the beauty spots of Lamoni. From early spring until autumn frosts flowers and shrubs are blooming. A cinder path, a small rock footbridge give an inviting informality. Chas. Church has planned the landscaping.

The Reunion Park is a tract of about forty acres owned by the L. D. S. Church and used as a camp ground for annual reunions. Besides the use for the ten days camp it is the favored picnic grounds of the community.

Newspapers

The Lamoni Gazette was first published in November, 1885. It was finally sold to Lambert Brothers who changed its name to Independent Patriot, a successful, reliable paper and a great aid in the moral uplift of the community. It was discontinued in 1910.

The Lamoni Chronicle, the present newspaper in Lamoni, was first established in 1904 by W. H. Deam. Several owners followed until April 1, 1913, when it became the property of the present owner, W. H. Blair. He has made a distinct success of the paper and has one of the most modern plants to be found in the state. The paper runs from eight pages up, is six columns, issued every Thursday to its 1,500 paid-up subscribers.

Small Stock Magazine, published by the Blair Printing Company, is the largest of its kind in the world. It began in 1916 when the rabbit business was in its infancy, and has grown to a circulation of 16,000 monthly going into every state in the Union and some dozen foreign countries.

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Early Lamoni Business

The first business houses were erected by Thomas Teale and Samuel H. Gurley at the west corners of what is now Main and Linden streets. The first lumber yard was started by David Dancer, Albert P. Dancer and A. S. Cochran. In the fall of 1880 Henry Stebbins purchased the store of A. P. Dancer. The first photographer was A. M. Chase. G. W. Johnson's Jewelry Store was one of the early comers to Lamoni. The chronicler of those pioneer days would find mention of such names as these: Charles Blair, traveling salesman; George Blair and T. J. Bell in the mercantile business; William Graham as a hotel keeper; Joseph Kabidou in the blacksmith business; Frank Weld in the drug store; J. W. Denoon, John H. Hansen, Dr. Stafford, Theo. Brenzier, A. W. Sherman, doctors; Charles Ellerton, first depot agent; W. A. Hopkins, furniture business, and a long list of men and business firms of varied types.

Lamoni has been an agricultural community. In that busy year of 1879 over ten thousand bushels of corn were sold and shipped. The business annals of Lamoni should include the farmers who settled here such as David Dancer, Elijah Banta and J. R. Smith and the many pioneers who have given stability to the community.

The first person born in the town of Lamoni was Bertie Lamoni White, the son of Volentine and Mary A. White. The first girl born here was a daughter of Dr. Denoon. The third child born in Lamoni was Wilbur Cochran.

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VERSES FROM A POEM, "THE OLD WHITE SCHOOLHOUSE."

Written in 1901 by Mrs. Vida Smith Yates

You remember your sunny roomed school house,
On prairie, by forest, or hill,
It rises like old pictures before you,
Your heart gives a queer little thrill,
For the scenes crowding fast hold enchantment
And the skies bending o'er them are blue,
But the fancies and dreams of those school rooms
Are dearest and sweetest to you.

Coming years may deal hardly or gently,
We may wander the great world o'er,
But often in our fancy or night dreams
We will meet at the old school house door.
Not the little red school in the forest,
Nor the brown one by the swiftest of rills,
Just the plainest and dearest old school house,
On Iowa's soft rolling hills.

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EARLY HOMES

Who's Who in Lamoni's History

At the head should stand the names of all those peace-loving citizens of industry and sound living, who make up the framework of a community. But the annals of history never record all these.

The following group is a representative one, of persons of several callings, gathered from interviews. It is not the roster of those who have become widely known since leaving the community, but of those who have promoted the welfare of Lamoni, and whose work for the town cannot be summarized in a vocation or office.

Anderson, Daniel, postmaster 24 years, member college board 19 years.

Anderson, Oscar, banker, representative in state legislature, state budget director 1929.

Aderson, Wm., Bishop of Lamoni Stake, merchant, president of State Saving Bank.

Allender, I. W., lumberman, member of college board.

Banta, Elijah, president of Order of Enoch, farmer and business man, representative in state legislature.

Barrett, Col. Geo., surveyor of college grounds.

Briggs, G. N., superintendent of schools, president of Graceland College, effecting accrediting.

Blair, F. B., business manager of Herald Office, and of Electric Light Company.

Blair, G. W., real estate, postmaster, mayor.

Blair, W. W., early minister.

Bailey Samuel, pioneer, instrumental in laying the railroad through Lamoni.

Burgess, S. A., professor at Graceland, editor.

Carmichael, A., bishop of Lamoni Stake, member of school and college board.

Church, C. F., first store clerk, landscape gardener.

Cochran, Asa, lumberman, minister.

Dancer, David, founder of early community, farmer and man of business.

Dancer, Rosalie, donor of land for Rosehill cemetery, named in her honor, worker in civic and charity affairs.

Derry, Geo. H., harness maker, automobile dealer, mayor.

Fleet, B. D., merchant for thirty years.

Garver, J. F., member of educational boards, minister.

Greer, Bertha A., physician.

Gunsolley J. A., superintendent of schools, business manager of Graceland College.

Gurley, S. H., first merchant and early postmaster.

Gurley, Z., minister, representative in state legislature.

Hansen, J. H., physician and member educational board.

Hopkins, W. A., banker, donor of college land, promoter of Jefferson Highway and first president of Highway Association.

Horner J. B., physician.

- Hudson, W., merchant, early town's worker.
- Kelley, E. L., bishop of L. D. S. Church, promoter of Graceland College.
- Lambert, D. F., superintendent of schools, editor of the Patriot.
- Lyons, Lucy, early postmistress.
- Nicholson, D. F., first banker in Lamoni.
- Nicholson, Minnie B., clubwoman in civic affairs.
- Peterson, O. H., physician.
- Prall, W. E., member of college board, minister.
- Russel, B. M., attorney.
- Rabidou, Jos., early blacksmith, meat business.
- Siltz L. F., railway agent for many years.
- Smith, Heman, editor and minister.
- Smith, Joseph, president of L. D. S. Church.
- Smith, J. R., pioneer agriculturalist and banker.
- Smith, E. A., minister and writer.
- Smith, F. M., telephone business, minister (now president of L. D. S. Church).
- Stebbins, H. A., lumber business, minister.
- Sherman, A. W., doctor.
- Teale, Thos., earliest merchant (where D. C. White's store is now located).
- Thomas, O. B., first school teacher.
- Turner, Robt., farmer, mayor.
- Walker, Mrs. Marietta, promoter of the College, and donor of land, writer.
- White, A. Otis, furniture dealer, undertaker, president of school board for thirteen years.
- White, D. C., general merchant, minister.
- Walker, D. J., druggist, manufacturer of poultry supplies.

Chronicle of Events

- 1850—Decatur county organized. County seat at Decatur City.
- 1870—Order of Enoch established.
- 1875—Latter Day Saints Church, known as the Sheepshed, built.
- 1879—Lamoni platted by the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad.
- 1880—First Latter Day Saints Church in Lamoni erected.
- 1881—Methodist Church built.
- 1881—Printing plant moved to Lamoni from Plano, Illinois.
- 1882—Building of Brick Church begun.
- 1883—East side school built.
- 1885—Lamoni incorporated.
- 1885—First issue of the Lamoni Gazette. Later known as the Independent Patriot.
- 1888—First class graduated from the high school.
- 1888—The marshal ordered the pump removed out of the town well; and buckets and chain replaced as before.
- 1890—Provisions made for Central Park.
- 1891—Ordinance to prohibit minors from running at large at night.
- 1894—West Side school built.
- 1895—R. L. Mason presented to the town council a claim for twenty-five cents for feeding a tramp. Allowed.
- 1895—Introduction of electric lights discussed by town council.
- 1895—Cornerstone of Graceland College laid.
- 1896—Central School established.
- 1896—Limits of the corporation of Lamoni extended.
- 1897—Privilege of erecting telephone system in Lamoni granted.
- 1898—Graceland College graduated its first class, composed of one member, Frederick M. Smith.
- 1898—Lamoni State Savings Bank organized.
- 1904—Lamoni Chronicle established.
- 1907—New Herald Publishing House built.
- 1907—Heating and lighting plant built.
- 1911—Coliseum built.
- 1913—Kindergarten begun.
- 1915—High School building erected.
- 1920—Briggs Hall built.
- 1923—Zimmerman gymnasium erected.
- 1925—Graceland College endowed.
- 1928—Women's dormitory erection begun.
- 1929—Pavement of Jefferson Highway completed. Bus service introduced.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In the preparation of the material for this booklet the committee gratefully acknowledges the assistance of the many citizens who have furnished data, information and old time pictures, and to the business houses and city authorities who provided the present day pictures, seal of Lamoni, and much valuable help and information, thanks are due.

If it had been possible to publish a larger booklet much more material of an interesting and valuable character could have been included. A more pretentious history may be undertaken at some future date. If so it is hoped that all omissions and errors in this edition can be corrected. The committee will be happy to have its attention called to such.

In the belief that this Semi-Centennial will be the means of renewing acquaintance and cementing friendships and that this next half century will see a larger, more beautiful, and more prosperous Lamoni, this souvenir booklet of our Semi-Centennial is issued.

BOOKLET COMMITTEE

BLAIR PRINTING COMPANY
Lamoni, Iowa

